

To

at

in the County of BUCKINGHAM.

SIR,



HAVING for my Diversion travelled over a great part of the County of Buckingham, and taken the Arms and Inscriptions in and about divers of its Churches, and collected many valuable Records relating to its Antiquities; I have been importuned by several of my Friends to digest my Papers and publish my Observations: that so the small Remains of former Ages, still left among us, may not be lost to Posterity. With this Request of theirs I have at last resolved to comply; if I can meet with such Assistance and Encouragement, as may enable me to make my Work in any tolerable measure fit to appear in Publick. But the Subject is too Diffuse, and many of its Branches are too Obscure, for me to hope to compleat it by my self. Every Parish almost has some Particulars worthy to be Remembred, which the most diligent Enquirers can't find out without the Information of Knowing and Judicious Men, who live either upon the Spot, or in the nearest Neighbourhood; who have Skill to Distinguish; and upon whose Integrity the World may safely Rely. For these Reasons, Sir, I take the Freedom to send you the following Queries, and entreat the Favour of your Answers upon the Blank Page, if they shall be short; or (which would be much more Obliging) in a Paper at large by themselves. I earnestly beg, Sir, that you would not omit any thing upon a Presumption that it may be Trivial; the least Hints many times upon the smallest Subjects may give a Light into other Matters of greater Moment, and enable me to make such Enquiries as may lead me to Discoveries yet unthought of: in Publishing of which, I suppose I need not add that, I shall proceed with the utmost Impartiality.

I hope you will not confine your Observations to the Parish in which you live: Since it is possible some of your Neighbours may either want the Opportunities of Informations that you have, or may not in some Cases have perfectly understood, or thoroughly considered the Nature and Extent of my Design.

If I receive Encouragement from your self, and the rest of the Gentlemen and Clergymen of the County, I shall chearfully go on with what I have began; and endeavour to finish it as soon as my Health and the Nature of the Undertaking will allow. And your Assistance and Favour shall be gratefully acknowledged by,

SIR,

Your most humble Servant,

BROWNE WILLIS.

Q U E R I E S.

I.

ON what River, and in what Hundred is your Parish situated? What is the Name Now? What Anciently? How Spelled? With what Variations, and in what Printed Books? If named Differently in MSS. tell where they may be consulted? What its Extent and Bounds? Against what Parishes, East, West, North and South? What Number of Houses and Inhabitants? To what Saint is your Church Dedicated? On what Day is your Feast? Is the Benefice a Rectory, Vicarage, Curacy, or Donative? Is yours a Market Town or Village? What, and How many Hamlets or Innships are there in your Parish? What King gave your Charter? What Fairs are held by it? What is your Market-Day? What remarkable Privileges do you enjoy by your Charter, or by any Concessions from Private Lords? What Fairs or Markets have you formerly had, which

are now Disused? Upon what account were they laid down, and when?

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II. What

II.

What *Seats* or *Private Houses* in your Parish, which are called by particular Names? Why those Names given? What Remains or Traditions have you of ancient Buildings now demolished? What their Names and why demolished? What foreign *Honors* or *Manners* claim in your Parish? What Place noted for ancient *Fortification*, *Field of Battle*, or *Burying Place*? What ancient *Parliaments*, *Councils*, or *Synods*, held in your Parish?

What Furniture of *Pulpit*, *Desk* and *Altar*? Who the Donors? What *Rails*, and by whom given? Is any thing uncommon in your Font? What remarkable Repairs and Additions to your Church? What Charities? Who the Donors, what the Uses? Particularly what *Schools* and *Hospitals*? For what Uses, and how endowed?

III.

Who *Patrons* of your Church now, and anciently? Who *Incumbents* now, and anciently? When Instituted? Of what *University*, and *College*, or of none? Whither removed from your Parish? What were their *Preferments*, *Degrees*, *Writings*? How old is your Register? What Accounts in it of *Births*, *Burials*, or *Marriages*, of *Gentlemen*, or other Persons of Note or Eminency? What uncommon things are noted in your Register?

What *Antiquity* and *Endowment* of your *Chapels of Ease*? What its *Fabrick* now, or anciently? What its Bells now or anciently? If removed, to what Place?

V.

VI.

What *Epitaphs* and *Inscriptions* are there within your Church or Chapel, or on the outside, especially what before the Reformation? What remarkable *Monuments* in the Church Yard? What *Arms* within or about the Church? What *Painted Glass*, and by whom erected? In what Materials, and in what part of the Edifice are the *Monuments* and *Arms* erected? What remarkable *Pavements* are there in the Church?

IV.

What sort of a *Fabrick* is your Church? What its Age? If there was a former, now demolished, where situated? What its *Fabrick*? What *Ishes*, *Vestries*, *Roodlofts*, *Schoolhouses*, &c. in and adjoining to your Church? What *Inscriptions* upon *Bells* (especially before the Reformation) with their Ages? If given by private Benefactors name the Persons? What *Length Breadth* and *Height* of your Church and Steeple? What *Chantries*, *Chapels*, appropriated *Burying Places*?

VII. What

VII.

What *Monasteries*, *Cells*, *Hermitages*, *Sanctuaries*, or any other *Religious Houses* or *Places* were anciently in your Parish? Whether *Original Endowments*, or *Appendages* to other Houses at Home or Abroad? What *Pilgrimages* have you formerly had to *Shrines*, *Springs*, or other *Consecrated Places*? What *Ruins* of *Religious Structures* have you, and what *Buildings* of that sort are yet entire? *Ruins* when pulled down, and by whom? What *Traditions* are remaining that relate to them? What *Reliques*? What *Miracles* are talked of? What may be supposed to have been the *Measure* of these *ancient Structures*, by the *Tosts* whereon they stood? What *Bells* were there, and whither removed? What *Leiger Books*, and where preserved? What painted *Glass* in private Houses formerly belonging to *Religious ones*?

VIII.

What *Gentlemen* or *Noblemen* have you that inhabit or that possess *Estates* or *Mannors* in your Parish? What *Church Lands* have you, to whom anciently belonging, and by whom ever since the Alienation possess? What the *Genealogies* of *Gentlemen* now seated, or that anciently had Possessions among you? when were they settled or how? What their *Coats of Arms*?

IX.

What *Processions*, and on what *Days*? *Wakes*, particular *Customs*, *Games*, or *Sports*, *Proverbs*, *Phrases*? (with *Originals* and *Derivations* of all these)

What *Peculiarities* reducible to these or such like *Heads*, have you in your Parish?

X.

What extraordinary *Occurrences* remembered among you? What *Damages* by *Storms*, *Lightnings*, *Frosts*, or *Floods*? What *Murders*, *Apparitions*, *long Lives*, or *uncommon Deaths*? What monstrous *Births*, of *Men* or *Beasts*, and how are all these *Things* attested?

XI.

What *Names* have you ancient or modern of *Hills*, *Rocks*, *Parks*, *Woods*, *Commons*, *Warrens*, *Rivers*, or *Brooks*? What *Names* of *Places* now obsolete, and commonly not understood? What *Rivers* or *Brooks* pass thro' or bound your Parish? Whence do they rise, and whither go? What remarkable *Springs* have you *simple* or *medicated*? What is your *Soil*, *Arable*, *Pasture*, *Meadow*, *Woodland*, *Forrest*, or *Coppice*? What *Forrest Laws* or *Customs* have you? What *Purlicues*, *Free-Hays*, *Affarts* or *Chaces*? What *Parks* have you now, or what had you anciently? When enclosed if known? What *Composts*? What *Methods* of *Husbandry* or *Improvements* of *Land* are used among you? What *natural Rarities* of any sort?

XII. What

What Roman or other old ways? What Crosses, Beacons, Urns, Lacrymatories, Rings, Seals, Coins, Amulets, Chains, Bracelets, old Writings, relating to the former State of your Parish, Monuments in uncommon Places, Lamps or Lamplands, Shrines, &c. In a word, set down whatever you may judge to be, or may have been informed to be antique, tho' to appearance never so Trivial, if it is Extraordinary.

POSTSCRIPT.

These, Sir, are the Queries upon which I desire the Favour of your Assistance. You will soon see what can have any Relation to your Parish, or come within your Knowledge. And I hope you will not omit the returning an Answer to my Queries upon a Presumption that I may have been at your Parish. For, notwithstanding what I have hitherto attempted, I am yet in the Dark as to many Particulars: and, without a Previous Information from my Friends, shall not be able to reap the several Advantages of a new Survey, which I intend (God willing) to take. So must request the Return of your Answer by the first Day of July next, to be left with Mr. Bell, Registrar of the Officiality Court at Aylesbury, or (if you will honour me with your Correspondence) direct to me at Whaddon-Hall, near Fenny-Stratford, Bucks.

Whaddon-Hall,
April 8, 1712.

These or similar Queries were circulated by
Mr J. Martin in 1718

Vide Athenian Mercury To Vol 4. P 153.
& b. Pennants Tour in Scotland